



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - Public distribution

**Date:** 7/13/2007

**GAIN Report Number:** GM7030

## Germany

### Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety

#### AI update: Total Number Rises to 240 Wild Birds, One Goose on Backyard Farm

**2007**

**Approved by:**

Rey Santella, Agricultural Attache  
U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Sabine M. Lieberz

---

**Report Highlights:**

This report provides an update on our report GM7025 dated June 25, 2007. From June 24 through July 12, 2007, HPAI was confirmed in a total of 240 wild birds in four of the sixteen German states (Thuringia, Saxony-Anhalt, Saxony, and Bavaria). In addition, one HPAI case was confirmed in a domestic goose in a small backyard farm in Thuringia. As a result, the other four geese and five ducks on the holding as well as all poultry (1200 animals) in a three kilometer radius were destroyed.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Berlin [GM1]  
[GM]

### Additional H5N1 Cases in Wild Birds

On June 24, 2007, the first cases of high pathogen avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in 2007 were confirmed in wild birds in Bavaria (see our report GM7025). Since then, HPAI was also diagnosed in wild birds in the States of Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, and Thuringia taking the total of cases in wild birds to 240. Protection and surveillance zones around all sites where the birds were found were established immediately<sup>1</sup>.

The vast majority of cases occurred at a dam at the border of Saxony-Anhalt and Thuringia. Most of the affected birds consisted of black-necked grebes (*Podiceps nigricollis*).

	2006	2007 as of July 12
Saxony-Anhalt		181
Thuringia		38
Bavaria	73	14
Saxony	2	7
Berlin	1	
Lower-Saxony	2	
Baden-Wuerttemberg	19	
Brandenburg	21	
Schleswig-Holstein	32	
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	194	
Total	344	240

### HPAI in a Backyard Flock

In addition, HPAI was confirmed in a goose in a backyard operation in Thuringia on July 6, 2007. The flock consisted of five geese and five ducks, which were destroyed immediately. Protection and surveillance zones were also established immediately. After confirmation of HPAI, all poultry within a three kilometer radius were also destroyed, a total of 1200 animals. The incident was reported to OIE on July 7, 2007.

<sup>1</sup> As a result of a reported suspected HPAI case, routinely, a 3 km protection zone is established for 21 days and a 10 km surveillance zone for 30 days. In the protection zone

- transport of birds, poultry and poultry meat is prohibited,
- birds and poultry have to be kept indoors,
- commercial poultry farms may only be entered by farm personnel and vets,
- mats with disinfectants have to be placed at the entrances and exits of poultry holdings, and
- cats and dogs are prohibited from roaming freely.

### Updated German AI Risk Assessment

In light of the new cases, the German reference laboratory *Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut* (FLI) revised its risk assessment on July 6, 2007, and increased the risk level attributed to wild birds from moderate to high. In detail the FLI risk assessment stated the following risk levels<sup>2</sup>:

- Infection through illegal imports: high
- Infection through resident wild birds: high
- Infection through migratory birds: low
- Infection through vehicles: low
- Infection through legal imports: negligible

### Regulatory Changes Halted

The current strict German protection measures include a general requirement to keep poultry indoors. Exception from this requirement can be granted by the local authorities for non-risks areas. The rule for defining risk areas is laid down in a federal regulation.

In GM7025 we had reported about an upcoming vote on a law to transfer the authority to define risk areas from the federal to the state level. In the light of increased HPAI cases, the law was withdrawn from the agenda, thus, leaving the authority for regulations on risk area definition with the federal level.

### Press and Consumer Reaction

The focus of press coverage has changed substantially compared to last year. In 2006, papers were full of pictures of dead birds and much was written about possible threats to human health. This time the focus is on the effect that protection and surveillance zones have on free range egg producers, hobby farmers, and dog and cat owners. So far, the new cases seem to have little effect on consumer purchases of poultry meat.

### Key Facts on the Poultry Sector in Germany

In 2006, Germany produced 1.03 million MT of poultry meat and 804,000 MT or 13 billion pieces of eggs<sup>3</sup>. The production value at the producer level amounted to US\$ 1.66 billion (1.1 billion Euro) for poultry plus US\$ 680 million (544 million Euro) for eggs. In total, poultry and egg production holds a 4.4 percent share of the total German agricultural production.

According to the animal census carried out in May 2005, Germany reports a total of 120.6 million live poultry animals. Broken down this represents 107 million chickens, thereof 50 million laying hens and chicks and 57 million broilers, plus 11 million turkeys, 2.4 million ducks, and 329,500 geese.

---

<sup>2</sup> The risks categories are defined as

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Likely:     | circumstance can happen or could be reasonably expected                  |
| High:       | probability of this circumstance to occur is higher than average         |
| Medium:     | probability is on an average level                                       |
| Low:        | probability is below average   |
| Negligible: | probability is so low that there is no need to look at this circumstance |

<sup>3</sup> This includes edible eggs and hatching eggs.

The top five poultry producing states are Lower-Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia, Bavaria, Saxony-Anhalt, and Saxony, with 44, 9, 8, 7 and 7 percent of the poultry population, respectively.

**Table: Poultry numbers in Bavaria, Saxony, and Germany in May 2005\***

	Germany	Bavaria	Saxony - Anhalt	Saxony	Thuringia
Chickens	107 million	9 million	8.1 million	7.8 million	4.3 million
Turkeys	11 million	659,900	704,800	223,900	157,700
Ducks	2.4 million	91,700	184,200	14,100	9,000
Geese	329,500	9,300	6,300	39,300	9,200
Total Poultry	120.6 million	9.8 million	8.98 million	8.04 million	4.4 million

\* Latest available data

Source: German Federal Office of Statistics, Wiesbaden

**Related reports:**

Report		Title	Date released
GM7025	Germany	AI Re-Appears in Wild Birds	06/25/2007
GM6015	Germany	AI confirmed in a Commercial Poultry Farm - Consumer Reaction Limited	04/07/2006
GM6011	Germany	AI Update: AI confirmed in cats and suspected in a beech marten	03/10/2006
GM6008	Germany	AI update: 127 cases in wild birds none in domestic poultry	03/02/2006
GM6007	Germany	AI among wild birds reaches German mainland	02/21/2006
GM6005	Germany	AI Confirmed in Two Dead Swans in Northern Germany	02/16/2006
GM5042	Germany	Avian Influenza Update: Free Range Chicken Allowed Outside Again	12/19/2005
GM5035	Germany	AI-Threat: German Poultry Must Stay Inside - But Only in Certain Regions	09/12/2005